

**Little Falcon Hawking for Insects.**—The Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) is not uncommon in this district but is seldom seen in numbers. In most cases one only gets a fleeting glimpse of a single bird or at the most a pair, and then they are usually in pursuit of some small bird. However, on January 29, 1952, between sundown and dark, I was surprised to find five birds flying over the edge of a swamp. They were diving in and out just like swallows, apparently very interested in some very small insects invisible to me. Every now and then a bird would pause in flight, clutch at something with its claws, and transfer it to the beak as it flew along. It would appear that four of the birds were probably a family party while the other was an intruder attracted by the abundant insects. The intruder (?) was chased off a number of times. When this happened an aggressive call was uttered. A. J. North, in *Nests and Eggs of Birds Found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania*, vol. 3, p. 274, mentions this species hawking for insects in the evening and states that large winged ants and dragonflies are procured in this manner.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, Coolup.

**Encounter With Native Cat.**—On August 23, 1951 I had an interesting encounter with a Native Cat (*Dasypus geoffroyi*), this being my first meeting with the animal. My wife and I were awakened in the early hours of the morning by a loud scuffling noise in the kitchen, and a hurried investigation by torchlight revealed what we at first thought was a large rat. We eventually cornered the animal and succeeded in capturing it in a box, when we were amazed to find it was a native cat. It had evidently come into the house in search of food and failed to find its way out again.

Observed while kept in captivity during the following day it was seen to be about the size of a small domestic cat, with rather short legs. Nose square cut at the end of the pointed snout, and of a light tan colour as were the pads of the feet. Nostrils large. Eyes wide and round. Ears smallish but rather cat-like. The body colour was a curious admixture of greenish-yellow and blackish-brown, conspicuously marked with white spots. The tail, on which the hair was very coarse, was dark brown in colour with tip white.

A dead Silvereye, picked up in the garden, was placed in its box which had been covered with a bag to exclude the light, and in a very few minutes every vestige of this had been cleaned up. The Silvereye was followed by the body of a Magpie which had been found dead on the ground some days before. In 30 minutes half of this had been devoured, the animal opening it up and eating the internal organs first. Watched surreptitiously it was seen to crouch along the body of the bird while at its feast. It is worth note that in the excrement of this animal pieces of red skin, obviously from the seeds of *Macrozamia*, were conspicuous.

When released in the evening it went off without undue hurry.

—G. F. PARTON, Kalamunda.